

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly Newscast

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) expense	a) return money pay back funds
	2) scandal	b) not right unacceptable
	3) senators	c) money spent costs
	4) accused	d) associate coworker
	5) inappropriate	e) fraud dishonourable behavior
	6) repay	f) blamed under suspicion
	7) fellow	g) members of the Senate government officials

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**get his/her say** – have the opportunity to explain oneself

**“throw someone under the bus”** – to put all the blame on one person to protect yourself/others

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ Three senators were caught fighting in the Senate this week.
2. \_\_\_\_ The prime minister was accused of being involved in the Senate expense scandal.
3. \_\_\_\_ Three former conservatives could lose their jobs because of unjust spending.
4. \_\_\_\_ Mike Duffy was angry because the prime minister told him to repay his expenses.
5. \_\_\_\_ Harper explained on Wednesday that it was not right for Duffy to repay unjust expenses.
6. \_\_\_\_ Pamela Wallin got to explain herself to the Senate on Wednesday.
7. \_\_\_\_ Wallin explained that other senators had tried to throw her into traffic.

### Discussion Question

Do you think it is right that the senators lose their job because they spent too much government money on inappropriate expenses?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. resident	a) to be the elected person for an area
	2. ward	b) to count something a second time
	3. represent	c) a person who lives somewhere
	4. recount	d) to finish something
	5. complete	e) an area of the city
	6. councillor	f) a person elected in local government, such as a city or county
	7. rejected	g) moving two things apart
	8. separating	h) something that is refused

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**Returning officer** – the person with the job to make sure the election is fair and to tell everyone the results

**Sworn in** – When an elected person starts his/her new job by promising to be honest and work hard  
Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Chronological Order

Put the following sentences in the order they happened; not in the order they are said in the story. Write the number 1 next to the sentence that describes what happened first. Then, write the number 2 next to the sentence that describes what happened second, and so on.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

\_\_\_\_\_ The returning officer said there must be a recount.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ward Sutherland is finally said to be the winner.

\_\_\_\_\_ At first, Sutherland won by 85 votes.

\_\_\_\_\_ The new council will start work on Monday.

\_\_\_\_\_ There was an election for a new city council in Calgary.

### Discussion Questions

The new city council has many items they want to work on to improve our city. What would you like to see the new city council do or discuss? What issues do you think are most important in Calgary?

## News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<b>residents</b> (people who live in an area)	<b>tracks</b> (the lines for a train)	<b>propane</b> (a flammable gas)
<b>flee</b> (to run from danger)	<b>bison</b> (an American buffalo)	<b>contaminated</b> (poisoned)
<b>relieved</b> (to feel relaxed after a stressful situation)		<b>reimburse</b> (to pay back money)
<b>derail</b> (a train comes off the train tracks)		

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**ranch** – cow, horse and/or bison farm

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ in my neighbourhood have decorated their houses for Halloween.
2. My outside barbeque uses \_\_\_\_\_ to cook the food.
3. If you go east of Edmonton to Elk Island National Park, you can see many \_\_\_\_\_.
4. After I finished my exam, I felt so \_\_\_\_\_ that I went shopping.
5. People are worried that pollution will cause our food to be \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Three senators have been asked to \_\_\_\_\_ the government for their inappropriate expenditures.
7. When there is a wild fire, it is important to call the police and \_\_\_\_\_ the area.
8. When a train \_\_\_\_\_ in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec last summer many people were killed.
9. I got my nephew a train set for his birthday. He loves to set up the \_\_\_\_\_ around the house.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What happened in Gainford, Alberta?
2. How long did residents have to stay out of their homes?
3. How many people had to flee their homes?
4. When did this accident happen?
5. What did ranch owner Mrdjenovich find when he checked his property?
6. What is Orchison worried about?
7. What did the CN spokesman say the company will do?

### Discussion Questions

Have you taken a train in Canada? Why do you think train transportation is not as popular in Canada as it is in other countries?

## Language Focus

### Listing: conjunctions and punctuation

We often use lists when we are writing. There are some grammar rules we need to remember when we are making a list.

In the script this week, there are some examples of lists. We should look carefully at the punctuation used in a list and the type of coordinating conjunction used.

When we are (positively) listing only two things or events (or giving two examples), we can use the coordinating conjunction **and**. We do not need any punctuation.

Story #3 “Ranch owner Milos Mrdjenovich (Myrrh-jen-a-vitch) found burned grass **and** a torn-down fence when he checked his property.”

When we are listing more than two things (or giving many examples), we still use the coordination conjunction **and** **once** at the end of our list. We separate the items we are listing with commas (,). If the list is long and each item includes more than two words, we can use a colon(:) to introduce the list (as seen in the second example.)

Story #1 “Former Conservatives Mike Duffy, Pamela Wallin **and** Patrick Brazeau could lose their jobs because of inappropriate expenses.”

Story #3 “Randolph Orchison worried about whether the water might be contaminated **and** affect his cattle, bison **and** horses.”

Note: When we have the word **not** in a sentence – that is, our list is negative – we should use the conjunction **or** instead of *and*.

It did not snow today in Edmonton **or** Calgary.

I’m a vegetarian, so I don’t eat chicken, beef **or** pork.

Try to make lists using the correct conjunction and punctuation.

What are your three favorite activities to do? What are three things you would like to do this winter? What are three things you don’t like to do?

## Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	OCTOBER 25 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for October 25 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	The Senate expense scandal was the big story through the week in Ottawa with three senators fighting for their jobs and the prime minister was accused of being involved. Former Conservatives Mike Duffy, Pamela Wallin and Patrick Brazeau could lose their jobs because of inappropriate expenses. Duffy was very angry in the Senate Tuesday, saying that Stephen Harper directly told him to repay expenses, even though he had done nothing wrong. The next day, Harper told the Commons, "You're darn right I told him he should repay." Pamela Wallin got her say on the floor of the Senate Wednesday, adding some fellow senators were "throwing her under the bus" because they disliked her.	0:09
Story 2	Residents in a North-west Calgary Ward finally know who will represent them at City Hall. The recount in Ward 1 is complete and Ward Sutherland is Calgary's newest councillor. After the first count, Sutherland won by 85 votes over Chris Harper. But the returning officer said there must be a recount because the number of rejected ballots was higher than the number of votes separating the two. The new council will be sworn in on Monday.	1:02
Story 3	Residents of the tiny community of Gainford, west of Edmonton, spent more than three days out of their homes after a CN train went off the tracks there, and cars carrying propane exploded. A total of 126 people had to flee their homes when the train derailed early Saturday morning. Ranch owner Milos Mrdjenovich (Myrrh-jen-a-vitch) found burned grass and a torn-down fence when he checked his property. Randolph Orchison worried about whether the water might be contaminated and affect his cattle, bison and horses. Other residents were just relieved to be finally returning home. A CN spokesman says the railway will reimburse residents for any damage.	1:38

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
<b>C</b>	1) expense	a) return money pay back funds
<b>E</b>	2) scandal	b) not right unacceptable
<b>G</b>	3) senators	c) money spent costs
<b>F</b>	4) accused	d) associate coworker
<b>B</b>	5) inappropriate	e) fraud dishonourable behavior
<b>A</b>	6) repay	f) blamed under suspicion
<b>D</b>	7) fellow	g) members of the Senate government officials

#### Listening

1. **F** Three senators were caught fighting in the Senate this week.
2. **T** The prime minister was accused of being involved in the Senate expense scandal.
3. **T** Three former conservatives could lose their jobs because of unjust spending.
4. **T** Mike Duffy was angry because the prime minister told him to repay his expenses.
5. **F** Harper explained on Wednesday that it was not right for Duffy to repay unjust expenses.
6. **T** Pamela Wallin got to explain herself to the Senate on Wednesday.
7. **F** Wallin explained that other senators had tried to throw her into traffic.

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
<b>C</b>	1. resident	a) to be the elected person for an area
<b>e</b>	2. ward	b) to count something a second time
<b>a</b>	3. represent	c) a person who lives somewhere
<b>b</b>	4. recount	d) to finish something
<b>d</b>	5. complete	e) an area of the city
<b>f</b>	6. councillor	f) a person elected in local government, such as a city or county

h	7. rejected	g) moving two things apart
g	8. separating	h) something that is refused

### Listening

- \_\_\_3\_\_\_ The returning officer said there must be a recount.
- \_\_\_4\_\_\_ Ward Sutherland is finally said to be the winner.
- \_\_\_2\_\_\_ At first, Sutherland won by 85 votes.
- \_\_\_5\_\_\_ The new council will start work on Monday.
- \_\_\_1\_\_\_ There was an election for a new city council in Calgary.

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary

1. The residents in my neighbourhood have decorated their houses for Halloween.
2. My outside barbeque uses propane to cook the food.
3. If you go east of Edmonton to Elk Island National Park, you can see many bison.
4. After I finished my exam, I felt so relieved that I went shopping.
5. People are worried that pollution will cause our food to be contaminated.
6. Three senators have been asked to reimburse the government for their inappropriate expenditures.
7. When there is a wild fire, it is important to call the police and flee the area.
8. When a train derailed in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec last summer, many people were killed.
9. I got my nephew a train set for his birthday. He loves to set up the tracks around the house.

### Listening

1. What happened in Gainford, Alberta? *A CN train went off the tracks and the cars carrying propane exploded.*
2. How long did residents have to stay out of their homes? *Three days*
3. How many people had to flee their homes? *126 people had to flee their homes.*
4. When did this accident happen? *It happened early Saturday morning.*
5. What did ranch owner Mrdjenovich find when he checked his property? *He found burned grass and a torn-down fence.*
6. What is Orchison worried about? *He is worried about whether the water might be contaminated and affect his cattle, bison and horses.*
7. What did the CN spokesman say the company will do? *The spokesman said the railway will reimburse residents for any damage.*